



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Pro Football Players Rally for Orangewood

***Over 60 NFL Stars Participate in Charity Dinner & Golf Tournament
to Benefit Orange County Abused Children***

***Dinner Honored Nine-Time NFL Pro Bowler, John Lynch and
O.C. Executive & Philanthropist William S. Thompson, PIMCO***

Dana Point – Athletes First, a Newport Beach sports agency that represents more than 80 professional football players, partnered with Orangewood Children's Foundation and its PALS auxiliary again this year and hosted its annual two-day fundraiser, "The Athletes First Classic." The gala event was held at the St. Regis Resort, Monarch Beach in Dana Point on March 7th, with a golf tournament the following day. Presenting sponsors were Robert and Susie Barth and the Argyros Foundation.

The gala and golf event are expected to raise more than \$350,000 for Orangewood Children's Foundation for victims of child abuse and neglect in Orange County.

Over 600 people gathered at the gala on Saturday night. The event honored John Lynch and William "Bill" Thompson who each received the 2009 Golden Heart Award. The award is given annually to two honorees, one an athlete who has been a positive role model and has made contributions off the field and the other a local business leader who has exhibited leadership in doing good works and benefiting humanity. Former NFL coach, Jon Gruden presented the award to Lynch (Gruden coached Lynch on Tampa Bay Buccaneers 2002-2003). Emily Thompson presented the award to her father, William S. Thompson.

Lynch is a nine-time Pro Bowl selection. In addition to being considered one of the best players in the NFL on the field, Lynch is widely considered one of the top humanitarians around league circles. Lynch and his wife, Linda, formed the John Lynch Foundation in 2000 with a

mission to develop quality young leaders through its community programs. Those programs include the “John Lynch Star of the Month,” a student-athlete recognition program; and the “Lynch Family Legacy Scholarships,” which provide financial assistance to area high school student-athletes who exemplify excellence in academics, community service and athletics.

Thompson is the retired CEO of PIMCO. He joined the company in April, 1993, when the firm had \$40 billion in assets under management. Today, PIMCO has become widely recognized as the world’s leading fixed income investment management company, managing more than \$750 billion in fixed income assets for governments, foundations, institutions, and individuals around the globe. Mr. Thompson is active in the community and recently completed a 3-year term as Chairman of the Hoag Hospital Foundation. In addition to Orangewood Children’s Foundation, he supports numerous other community groups including the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, the United Way and Orangewood Children’s Home.

The liveliest point during the evening, which was emceed by ESPN reporter, Michael Smith, was the live auction which featured a golf outing with Mark Sanchez and Matt Cassel, a VIP package featuring sideline passes for the 2009 USC football season, Costa Rica and Punta Mita luxury vacations, and the ultimate Kentucky Derby Millionaire Experience.

“This was a great opportunity for our clients to come together for a great cause,” said Athletes First CEO David Dunn. “I applaud them for taking time out of their extremely busy schedules to help the kids of Orangewood, and to help honor John and Bill.”

Orangewood Chief Executive Officer Cal Winslow said, “We are honored to continue our partnership with David Dunn and the whole Athletes First organization, and we’re delighted to be the beneficiary of this year's Classic.”

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